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Nixon Testimony Access Disputed

The Watergate special prosecutor's office said yesterday it does not believe the lawyers for former Attorney General John Mitchell should be allowed to examine the 11 hours of grand jury testimony given by former President Nixon in California last month.

Mitchell's attorneys had asked for access to the testimony for possible use in appealing the former Attorney General's conviction in the Watergate cover-up conspiracy case. The special prosecutor's office said yesterday there was no legal requirement that such testimoney be given to Mitchell's attorneys, and added, ". . . there is nothing in Mr. Nixon's testimony . . . that might have led the jury to entertain a reasonable doubt about (Mitchell's) guilt in the Watergate cover-up.."